

As families across Illinois join together this weekend to celebrate mothers and grandmothers, they do so with the promise of greater health and with greater access to affordable, quality health care thanks to health insurance reforms passed by Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) during the 111th Congress.

"As we celebrate Mother's Day, I'm reminded of the strength of my own mother as she battled cancer and health care bills, and how the health insurance reforms we passed will benefit so many women who are going through what she experienced," said Halvorson.

Since coming to Congress in January, 2009, Halvorson fought for common-sense health insurance reforms to provide greater access to care and lower costs through greater choice and competition. These reforms include holding big insurance companies accountable by preventing them from denying a woman care because of "pre-existing conditions" such as pregnancy or having a past "c-section" to deliver a child.

In addition to ending pre-existing condition discrimination, these new reforms will prevent big insurance companies from dropping coverage when someone gets sick, prevent them from "gender rating" coverage, leading to more expensive coverage for women than men, and will eliminate lifetime caps in coverage that often threatens to put families into bankruptcy.

"The new health insurance reforms will provide the peace of mind our mothers and grandmothers deserve, and the care they need," said Halvorson. "These benefits will help generations of women stay healthier for longer, and that's something we can all celebrate."

In addition to her work to improve health care for women, Halvorson has also fought for legislation to ensure equal pay for women, to increase access to health care for women serving in the armed forces, and to increase awareness for illnesses such as cervical cancer.